
8-25-1980**Evangelical Visitor - August 25, 1980 Vol. XCIII. No. 16.**

Glen A. Pierce

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Recommended CitationPierce, Glen A., "Evangelical Visitor - August 25, 1980 Vol. XCIII. No. 16." (1980). *Evangelical Visitor (1887-1999)*. 2404.<https://mosaic.messiah.edu/evanvisitor/2404>

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Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

Evangelical VISITOR

August 25, 1980

A black and white photograph of a park bench under a large tree. The tree's branches and leaves are in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The bench is in the middle ground, facing away from the viewer towards a grassy area. In the background, there are more trees and a distant horizon line. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

I remember him sitting down with his sons and me, their friend, to help us shell peas on a sultry summer afternoon, not removing his black coat and vest, joking and talking to us as we all worked. And then his wife, Anna, coming out and seeing him there, saying "Chris, you know you have to go, you are late for a meeting." —see page 4

PREVIEW

In this issue . . . the latest generation of Brethren in Christ have not had the opportunity to know Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Jr., a beloved brother whose vision and life of service have greatly influenced the church. C. N. died June 29 following a number of years of ill health. For a glimpse into the vitality of Dr. Hostetter's life and ministry, read the memorial tributes on pages four and five.

More frequently the *Visitor* carries obituaries of persons who did not receive church-wide attention in their life, yet who served their Lord just as faithfully as more prominent leaders. It is good to recall that God does not view our life and service with the same criteria that man uses in measuring accomplishments. Glimpses into the lives of four lesser known brothers and sisters may be found on pages six and seven.

In September . . . the *Visitor* will feature initial responses from readers of the July 10 article entitled "Evangelicals and Feminism."

October . . . is "Visitor Subscription Month." During October we encourage readers to renew their subscriptions, and encourage congregations to recruit new readers. Sample copies of the September 25 issue will be mailed to congregations. More details later.

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Evangelical Visitor

Volume XCIII

(USPS 180-300)

Number 16

Official organ of the Brethren in Christ Church, published semi-monthly by Evangel Press, 301 N. Elm Street, Nappanee, IN 46550.

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Subscriptions and change of address should be sent to Evangel Press, 301 N. Elm Street, Nappanee, Indiana 46550. Include both old and new addresses with requests for change of address.

Renewals: 1 year, \$7.00; 2 years, \$13.50; 3 years, \$20.00; and 5 years, \$32.50. New and gift subscriptions, \$6.00 a year. Lifetime, \$125.00

Second-class postage paid at Nappanee, Indiana 46550.

Printed in U.S.A.

The Dourtes (Dillsburg, PA) presented the following dialogue devotional during the Family Life Rally at General Conference.

Seven of a

Eber—Several weeks ago the Atone-ment Lutheran Church in Reading, Pennsylvania sent a five-person delegation to check out the nature of our family life ministries and emphatically stated their desire to have someone who would speak not "just about good marriage," (as they put it) but about the distinctiveness of Christian marriage!

Ruth— . . . not just marriage, but Christian marriage! Is that a new thought? Is not healthy marriage, healthy family life, a broad concern? What do Christians have to say, what behaviors can we model in our family relationships that surpass ordinary everyday human decency, courtesy and common sense?

What are some superlatives of Christian marriage? We suggest seven of them—only in outline tonight.

1 Christ is our example.
"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (I Cor. 11:1)

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly beloved children." (Eph. 5:1)

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps." (I Pet. 2:21)

2 There is a man who leads and loves and lays down his life like Jesus. (Eph. 5:22, 23, 25) C. N. Hostetter, who today "being dead, yet speaketh," stated 20 years ago that "a husband is responsible, before God, for the development and spiritual welfare of his wife and children."

Evangelical Visitor

Superlatives Christian Marriage

by Ruth and Eber Dourte



3 There is a woman who yields to, cooperates with, and respects this man who leads and loves and lays down his life like Jesus. (Eph. 5:22 and 24, 33) She learns to love him and their children. (Titus 2:4) He lives with her according to that mysterious and particular knowledge of woman necessary to a super Christian relationship. (I Pet. 3:7)

You see, marriage and family can be taught and learned. It is a required course in God's curriculum in the Department of Religion and Philosophy.

4 *There is mutual submission and love. (Eph. 5:21, I Jn. 3:16, I Pet. 5:5a) There is nothing in all the world so submissive as the love of Jesus. Love and submission are two sides of the same coin. C. S. Lewis said, "that marriage is best which most nearly approximates a crucifixion." When people lay down their lives for each other each has a fuller, richer life! A good marriage is not an easy, lazy, selfish life.*

5 There is the maturity and humility necessary for absolute fidelity. (Eph. 5:30, 31) These two people have grown up enough to establish a new and stable family unit (leave). They are willing to strongly support each other (cleave).

Here are two individuals, male and female, each created in the image of God, separate, equal, different, similar—"bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh," together now, one in Jesus, like Jesus, and like Adam and Eve before the fall into sin, "not ashamed" or critical of anything about each other that God made and called *very good!*

The bond is secure. This contract cannot be broken. Their faithfulness and sacrificial love (oh, so painful at times) is like the love of Jesus. "Having loved His own. He loved them unto the end." (Jn. 13:1) He further said, "I will never leave you or forsake you," "I will not leave you comfortless." If you confess your sins I am faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you. C. S. Lewis wrote, "Christ did not find the bride lovely. His love made her lovely."

This marriage demonstrates the mystery of Christ's unconditional and never-ending love for the church.

Divorce is the antithesis of that. That is why God hates it, as he says in Mal. 2:16.

6 *The children of this union trust and obey these parents who lead and love and lay down their lives like Jesus. (Eph. 6:1-4)*

Children need the male and female elements of the nature of God blended and integrated in their development, else they may grow up lopsided, but fathers have primary responsibility for their upbringing.

Children felt safe with Jesus, loved and wanted by Him, blessed by His presence, and His touch. Jesus said death by drowning is better than neglecting or offending children.

7 This marriage and this family are enlisted in a cause beyond and outside itself. "Look not every man on his own interest, but on the interest of others." (Phil. 2:4)

This family is alert to blessed opportunities to serve and minister and sacrifice, together, consciously, deliberately for the good of people outside their family. Indeed, in this giving we

receive strength, respect, satisfaction which in turn bless the family that gives and reaches out.

By this shall all men know you are my disciples—by the love you have for one another. (Jn. 13:35)

Jesus prayed in John 17 that the unity, harmony and love that he experienced in his heavenly relationships would be duplicated in our earthly relationships so that the world would both know and believe that God sent him.

Where is it harder to have such love and unity and harmony than in marriage, in family. What a mystery it is for the world to see unconditional love and never-ending forgiveness going on in family—to see the leadership and love and self-giving of Jesus going on every day.

The St. Louis Continental Congress on the Family in 1976 declared the family to be the primary witness of Christ in the modern world. In the 80s now the Brethren in Christ launch a campaign to strengthen marriage and family, to preach the revival of love and holiness in all family relationships. Do we really want revival? It must begin at home, between husbands and wives, parents and children of every or any age.

These are seven superlatives of Christian marriage and family. Ruth and I acknowledge with our brother Paul at the end of his ministry in Phil. 3:13, 14: "Brothers, we have not yet attained, we are not already perfect, but this one thing we do, forgetting the past . . . we press toward these goals for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

As a pre-school lad I remember C. N. as the stately man who patted my head and spoke to me as I nearly knocked him over with my scooter, telling me not to hurt myself. I remember him coming out of his study and giving us (including his sons) the baseball that had just penetrated his study window and, with a twinkle in his eye, telling us it might be better for us to move our ball game further down the hill.

I remember him sitting down with his sons and me, their friend, to help us shell peas on a sultry summer afternoon, not removing his black coat and vest, joking and talking to us as we all worked. And then his wife, Anna, coming out and seeing him there, saying "Chris, you know you have to go, you are late for a meeting."

I remember him as the best chapel speaker we ever had and looking forward to his turn at that duty. His kneeling with me at an altar of prayer, his arm around me, is a most precious memory to me. I remember his sitting in my home, talking about his life's work, Messiah College, and this was after he was no longer with the college. He was one of the greatest salesmen I have ever known—no one could say "no" to C. N.

In some ways the C. N. Hostetter, Jr. that I knew was a paradox. A leader in a small, very conservative church but able to integrate himself, very successfully, into the secular community. Meeting with the leaders of the secular community by day and holding a tent meeting in some small town by night.

C. N. Hostetter, Jr., one of two men (my father the other) that have most influenced my life. Thank God and the Hostetter family for allowing me and thousands of other people to share in the life of this truly great Christian man.

Ray Miller

Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Jr. MEMORIAL FUND

Donations in appreciation of the life and ministry of Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Jr. may be sent to the Brethren in Christ Archives, c/o Messiah College, Grantham, PA 17027. Contributions will be applied to the publication of a biography of Dr. Hostetter presently being written by Morris Sider. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Archives.

In Memory of C. N. Hostetter's Life and Ministry

Concerned churchman, effective educator, missions promoter, selfless servant of Jesus Christ. This was C. N. Hostetter, Jr.

As a pastor, in his early years at Refton and in his retirement at Palmyra, he was caring and sensitive to the needs of his people.

As president of Messiah College, he carried a concern and love for young people whom he greatly influenced. Not only did he pursue academic excellence, but he had a mind for the practical relationship of learning to living.

As chairman of the Mennonite Central Committee and World Relief Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals, he was moved by the plight of the needy and suffering around the world.

Brother Hostetter had a special interest and related well in the wider brotherhood of believers, effectively serving in ecumenical responsibilities.

Even though he has been inactive for nearly ten years, the influence of the life of this man of God lives on in the hearts of those who sat under his instruction, worked with him on boards and committees and who felt the impact of his kindly and godly example. Today the Brethren in Christ Church pays tribute to C. N. Hostetter, Jr., and thanks God for the life and service of this brother, beloved and honored by many.

Alvin J. Book, Bishop
Allegheny Conference
Board of Bishops

To put into words appreciation for the life of and sympathy in the passing of our much loved Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Jr. is both easy and hard.

It is easy to speak of our highly esteemed brother. As we walked in his long shadow in the years of his ministry, we were profoundly moved by his joyful spirit and his deep dedication. For the Palmyra Congregation of the Brethren in Christ Church it was a high honor to be the last congregation in a long list of credits in his full life of Christian Service. His pastor's heart was spent in our behalf. We believe that to share in his ministry was more like feeling a presence than simply

touching a life. We are richer for his gift of service among us.

It is hard to believe that Dr. Hostetter's life among us is ended, though we know his influence lives on. In sympathy we extend our promises of prayer as the family adjusts to Dr. Hostetter's homegoing. "The Message of Comfort, Courage, Hope and Faith" that he preached so often, now as always sustains God's people. May that same message comfort you his family, our brothers and sisters, in this time of your loss.

J. Robert Lehman, Pastor
The Palmyra Congregation

Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Jr., served as the fourth president of Messiah College from 1934 to 1960. During those years he manifested truly remarkable qualities of leadership.

He was known to many as both an able administrator and a sympathetic Christian friend. Hundreds of young men and women sought his counsel and then left his presence with a determination to do the will of God in their studies and later in service ministries.

Dr. Hostetter was respected and loved by his co-workers at Messiah College. He had concern for their welfare and dignity as individuals. His faculty and staff always felt they were regarded as a valuable asset.

Dr. Hostetter was also known for his courage. He did not hesitate to maintain a position in which he believed, even in the face of opposition. While he sometimes changed his position when faced with sufficient evidence, his steadfast commitment to a chosen course of action gave stability and status to the program of the college.

C. N. Hostetter was a master in the classroom. Students respected his insights, enjoyed his stories, and responded to his humor. When he looked into their faces with his kindly twinkle, they instinctively knew that the eternal wisdom of the Holy Spirit was searching their hearts.

The college took tremendous strides forward under Dr. Hostetter's leadership. During his administration the number of college students multiplied

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C. N. HOSTETTER, JR.

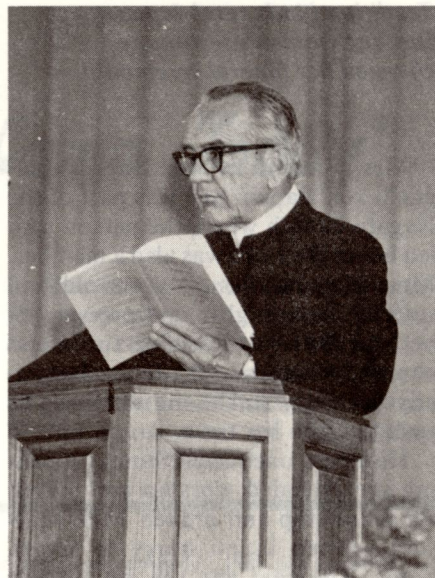
Christian Neff Hostetter, Jr., 81, of Grantham, PA, died June 29, 1980 in Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg, PA. Born January 22, 1899, he was the son of Bishop and Mrs. Christian N. Hostetter of Washington Boro, PA.

C. N. Hostetter, Jr. was pastor of the Refton congregation from 1923 to 1934, served as president of Messiah College from 1934 to 1960, and pastored the Palmyra congregation from 1962 to 1970. He served as bishop of the former Grantham district and was a member of numerous denominational boards and committees, including the Home Mission Board for 29 years.

Dr. Hostetter served for 13 years as chairman of the Mennonite Central Committee, and was president of the World Relief Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals for 9 years.

Surviving are his wife Anna; three sons—Nelson of Akron, Pa., Lane of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Ray of Grantham, Pa.; two brothers—Henry of Washington Boro, Pa., and John of Carlisle, Pa.; a sister—Mrs. Ellen McSparran of Camp Hill, Pa.; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held on July 4 at the Messiah College Chapel with Bishop Charlie Byers and Bishop Henry Ginder officiating. Burial was in the Grantham Memorial Cemetery.



tenfold, its financial assets increased more than six times, and its academic status advanced significantly, including state approval for its education program.

His secret of success as president of Messiah College grew out of placing principle above power, altruism above ambition, integrity above influence, and God above man. His philosophy, clear and distinct, is indelibly imprinted in the hearts and lives of the students, staff, and faculty whose lives he touched. Through his capacity for humble service, Messiah College has inherited principles and ideals which are woven into its very fabric.

Dr. Hostetter came to Messiah College with qualifications as pastor, leader, and brilliant student, and he left its halls as an accomplished scholar, a distinguished churchman, and eminent preacher, a man of profound thought, a Christian gentleman, and a great president.

Messiah College

We remember our departed brother as one who gave devoted leadership to MCC during the 13 years of his chairmanship. We recall how he mediated, stimulated, and inspired all who got to know him in this role.

Some of us remember with deep gratitude his ministry among us on the field when he made his extensive trips to various overseas programs in the 1960s. When we saw him off at the Taegu train station my wife said, "It was almost like saying goodbye to Dad." During the weeks that he was with us in Korea he had endeared him-

self to us with his wise counsel, his delightful humor, and his simple trust in our Lord.

Many times during the years of his illness, my thoughts turned to him, his wife and the rest of the family. It seemed difficult to understand why a person who had served so faithfully should be allowed to linger between life and death so long. In His wisdom God allowed it to happen and we yield to His will.

J. M. Klassen
Executive Secretary
Mennonite Central Committee

I want to acknowledge what C. N., as we affectionately referred to him, meant to me personally. I was a rookie in MCC when he was chairman. The skill and deceptive ease with which he conducted a meeting had few equals. Orie Miller once said, "Everyone is a little bigger when C. N. is in the room." And so it was—he appealed to our best. He joined me on a trip to Haiti and conducted a Bible study which I still remember. He was brother, boss, friend, counselor, companion, all in one.

Edgar Stoesz, MCC

(Quote from *BIC Life & History Journal*)

The year is 1960. MCC chairman C. N. Hostetter, Jr. is on a world tour. In Korea he records in his diary on September 29: "Went with Jake (Klassen) and an interpreter as we took a jeep load of food and clothes to a haven for the beggars and feeble minded. What a road! What needy people! What little of this world's goods some poor people have! I tried to take a few pictures."

Two days later he is with the MCC staff at a retreat. "After a Korean dinner in which I ate my first roasted grasshopper we had a worship fellowship and I spoke on Phil. 2, 'Joy In Service,' and then slept Korean style on a heated floor with mat for mattress and another for cover." On October 11 he visits a school and sits with the Korean faculty around low tables. "After the dinner of Korean food we played games. I was penalized (for losing) by being asked to sing a song and I sang 'The more we get together.' A very fine spirit was felt throughout the evening."

Those selected passages reflect the spirit of one of the noted leaders of the Mennonite Central Committee. Here obviously is a leader with a concern for the needy of the world, one who finds a biblical joy in service, one with a sense of humor that makes him fit comfortably with those whom he seeks to serve.

—Introduction to a chapter on C. N. Hostetter in a forthcoming MCC history. Reprinted by permission from *Brethren in Christ Life and History*, June 1980 issue.

**Tradition binds rural Japan.
But one woman's testimony
changed her funeral ceremony.**

Mrs. Matsura lived in Hagi, Yamaguchi ken, Japan. She was part of the Nagato church where the person who led her to the Lord was also a member. Mrs. Matsura was 60 years old and suffered from high blood pressure. It became difficult for her to attend church. When she did attend, she usually left early so she did not have to rush to catch her train.

However, one recent Sunday morning she attended worship and stayed for fellowship and prayer. Mrs. Matsura seemed in no hurry to return home. The next day she got up and tried to dress herself and was having difficulty. By noon she had gone to be with the Lord.

The church people, of course, wanted to have a Christian funeral, but none of the family was Christian. The family came from a small fishing village where the influence of the Buddhist temple

was very strong. The family wanted a Buddhist funeral.

The Buddhist priest was informed by the son that his mother was a strong Christian. It is reported the priest spent most of the night rewriting the Buddhist ceremony to conform as much as possible to his understanding of Christianity.

At a Buddhist funeral the departed person is given a new name indicating that he/she is now in a state of Buddhahood. Much of the ceremony is praying to the person and offering incense.

But all this was changed at Mrs. Matsura's funeral. The priest talked about "Kamisama" (God) instead of "Hotoke" (Buddha). He talked about being in heaven with God instead of being in paradise.

For a Christian Japanese funeral the church usually supplies a bouquet of

flowers shaped like a cross. The Nagato church provided this kind of bouquet for Mrs. Matsura's funeral. It was placed with the casket at the funeral and taken along to the crematorium, ending up with the ashes at the grave.

The church people said this funeral was confusing—some did not know what was happening. They had gone expecting a Buddhist funeral, but what they found was a "Christian" funeral conducted by a Buddhist priest. They had never seen anything like it before.

The rural areas of Japan are steeped in tradition. But one woman, by her testimony to her family and neighbors, had enough influence to change her funeral ceremony.

It will take a long time for the gospel to change these ingrained traditions, but Mrs. Matsura is an example of the fact that God is at work. He is changing people and traditions.

—Marlin Zook

We Shall Miss You, Sammy

"I'll miss your class," you said the last time I saw you before you left for your home in Blandburg.

"I'll miss you, too," I said, thinking you would return.

That was two weeks and one day ago. Yesterday you went to the hospital. Today you left the hospital, your family—all of us.

Yes, Sammy, I will miss you.

I will miss your loving hug.

I will miss your gentle smile.

I will miss your saying, "I like your dress. It's pretty."

I will miss your teasing someone with your cane.

I shall remember your counting people when they came in the church door as you sat on the Narthex bench.

I shall remember the times you checked out the organ to make sure it was ready for Donna to play.

I shall remember the time you knelt at the altar to cry and pray as the others were leaving the church.

I shall remember your trying to color the pictures in your Sunday School booklet.

I shall remember the time I urged you to cut a picture with a scissors and Larry said, "Sammy can't do that, Mary Beth."

I shall remember how you and Donnie enjoyed each other.

I shall remember the welcome you gave one Sunday evening when I had been sick. Did you know I felt

depressed and needed someone to put his arms about me?

I shall remember the place you made for yourself in the Sunshine Class. They knew how to look out for you and help you.

I shall remember one of the first times you were in the class. You weren't sure what to do or how to relate to the other members of the class. I put my arm about you and said, "God loves you, Sammy, and I love you."

"I love you, too," you said.

I shall remember the last time it was your turn to pray when we took up the offering.

I shall remember your pointing to your cane when we talked about the Good Shepherd.

I shall remember . . . We shall remember . . .

No, Sammy. You will not miss us anymore. Now that you are finally Home, you are completely happy.

But, Sammy, how very much we will miss you!

In Loving Remembrance
Mary Beth Stoner

Sammy, the brother of Mrs. Eugene Heidler, spent several months each year with the Cedar Grove congregation, PA. While he was there he would take part in the Sunshine Class, a Sunday ministry for developmentally disabled persons. Mary Beth Stoner, one of his Sunday school teachers, penned these words after his recent death.

Can death be beautiful? "Yes," affirms a grieving widow whose husband died of cancer.

Ellsworth Sheasley, a faithful and conscientious member of the Clarence Center, N. Y., congregation was not a flamboyant figure. He was a very ordinary kind of person. But God permitted him to experience an extraordinary homegoing.

"Good morning, Darling, how are you this morning?" was the greeting his wife heard via telephone from his hospital bed about midmorning on May 28. His words were so firm and strong that she first thought the Lord had healed him, for many had petitioned God for his healing in the previous months. But then he said, "Honey, the Lord's been talking to me and I'm going home today!" Asking her to contact other members of the family he told her that he would wait for them to arrive at the hospital.

About noon the daughter called me, their pastor. "Pastor, Dad says he's going home today and wants to hear your voice another time." I talked and prayed with him via telephone. He said that I need not come to the hospital, but I wanted to be there! I found him sitting on the edge of his bed. He said, "Pastor, the Lord's calling. I'm on my way and I'm ready to go!" Soon a tray of food was delivered to his bedside. Pushing it away he declared, "I don't need that anymore." About midafternoon he removed an oxygen tube from his nose and said, "No more, I don't need that."

Throughout the afternoon he was more talkative than usual. He seemed to have a heightened sense of appreciation for family and friends, and for the sunbeams occasionally brightening the floor at his feet. Frequently he would say, "I'm on my way," and then add, "but not yet. I want to visit my friends." I have since thought that his attitude was similar to that of the Apostle Paul who had the desire to depart this life and yet to remain.

What a precious time we shared together reading parts of John 14 and I Cor. 15. With strong affirmation he repeated Psalm 23. A son prayed with him, then the daughter, the wife, a friend, and the pastor. With clear assent he identified with the words of praise and petition. He inquired about a nurse who had previously prayed with him. Informed that she was off

"I'm Going Home Today"

duty and would return tomorrow, he said, "I'll not be here tomorrow." When another nurse came into the room to check on him, he looked at her with a smile and declared, "I'm going to heaven today."

Believing him to be irrational and

incoherent a doctor called family members aside and said, "Don't pay any attention to what he says. His heart is strong yet." But the patient was alert to all else in the room and we sensed that he did know what he was talking

to page 10

Lehman: Joy E. Lehman died in her mother's arms at home on April 17, 1980. She was born March 10, 1965 and left her parents, Charles L. and A. Ruth Lehman, and brother and sisters Joseph, Joanna and Julia. On Sunday afternoon, April 20, services were held at Locust Grove Brethren in Christ Church where she had attended for most of her life. Bishop Henry A. Ginder and pastors Harold Bowers and Herbert Hartman shared in the service. Interment was at the Air Hill Church cemetery.

Dear Joy,

We anticipated you

And dedicated you to the Lord before your birth.

We named you "Joy"

Before we knew it was the most appropriate name.

You have given us and your friends much joy.

We named you

Before we knew you were a special child.

But all children are special and need to be loved

And accepted for themselves.

When you took your first step, we were thrilled,

For we did not know what you would be able to do.

You have done so much:

Enjoyed camping,

Loved people,

Crocheted,

Did latch hook,

Learned to read and write.

You were not a burden to us or your teachers;

What extra you required, you repaid in love.

Lions were your favorite animals,

And you enjoyed drawing them.

Now you are with your LION—

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

You would repeat the 23rd Psalm with us:

Now you are in the glorious presence of

The Good Shepherd.

In His Presence, your loving spirit

Is not hampered by a weak, tired body.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Your Family



The Brethren in Christ International Fellowship (U.K.) seeks to provide wholistic ministry for persons in the Greater London area, particularly those from the Brethren in Christ churches in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

"Where there is no vision people perish." We thank God for having led the Brethren in Christ in Zimbabwe, Zambia, North America and the London Support Group in their joint effort to fulfill the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore to *all* nations, making them disciples. . . ."

The above groups have come to London, England, to carry out their commitment, as did the early church. To carry out God's purpose for the church effectively, we must seek His guidance in setting forth a plan of action. God has reminded us in His word that we should make plans, committing them to Him and trusting Him to direct and accomplish our plans. "Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, 9). Plans are a means of accomplishing our objectives and result in the structuring of our activities to achieve these goals. There may be problems and difficulties, but we must not give up or faint, for we preach not ourselves but Christ.

Having been entrusted with this task by the church, we have sensed the prayers of the believers during our initial stage of service in England. We extend our thanks to the London Support Group and, above all, Mr. Edgar Moyo, who has been of great help to us.

THE LONDON PEOPLE

We have felt accepted by the London people we have contacted. We have been able to visit various families and have contacted others by letter and telephone. Persons have also contacted us. It seems our presence has reminded a few persons of those things they admired in the Brethren in Christ

Church; to others it has been a reminder of those things they disliked. One said, "Now we will have a place to meet for spiritual and social activities and we can have advice on spiritual things." Another said, "The Brethren in Christ Church is following us to brainwash us again as they used to do in Zimbabwe."

CONTACTS

Spelling out the intentions of the church about this ministry to our people in England, one can sense persons here expect helpful things to happen. They feel the church will help them

babwe. I have been asked to be a member of the counselling group of the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, but I have failed because of some commitments. Hopefully this ministry will be available to these people so that your International Fellowship staff may help in counselling."

Rev. John Davies, the Baptist church minister, said, "We pray that God will help you to reach the people in England. About 3% of the people are Christians in this country, so you can tell how much we need to work."

London ministry staff: Warden Elias and Fadzai Moyo and Assistant Warden Curtis and Leslie Book, with their children. The Moyos arrived in London from Zimbabwe in February 1980; the Books arrived from North America in June 1980. Curtis is serving as Acting Warden while Elias continues his education at Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, California.



spiritually and physically. Keen interest toward this ministry has been seen among our people. They have many questions. We have tried to answer these but know we have not satisfied everyone.

The general comment from young and old has been, "There are many churches in London, but we do not find ourselves welcome and to continue with them will mean losing our culture, though there is nothing sinful about it."

Dr. D. R. deLacy, lecturer at the London Bible College, commented, "This Brethren in Christ International Fellowship (U.K.) means a lot to the people, particularly those from Zim-

GROUPS

There are families living in London who seem to have no immediate plans to return home. There are also young people who have come to study and intend to return as soon as they finish. Others have nowhere to go because they do not have scholarship. Because of the easing of the situation in Zimbabwe, some plan to return there.

We are suggesting the following ministries be made available, with special attention to non-citizens: pastoral care, to officiate marriages, funerals, etc.; visitation; Bible study; a fellowship centre to meet social and spiritual needs; relief for the needy.

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Evangelical Visitor

John &
Lucille
Graybill



Roy &
Esther
Mann



The annals of history are a panorama of interesting persons. The story of missions revolves around the people who go across the world as evangelists. Consider the persons I had direct contact with in my work this week:

Roy Mann was in the Missions Office the other morning. He and **Esther** arrived on Monday from Zimbabwe, where they continue to live and serve. Since 1922 Roy's friends have associated him with the church's missions program in Africa. But what is it that keeps the light in his eyes and the spring in his step at 81 years? Consider these life experiences which have helped to make Brother Mann what he is today: his first wife, Esther Miller Mann, from Franklin Corners (Illinois) congregation, died of malaria in the second year of their first term of service, at Macha Mission in Zambia. A dozen years later Roy married Esther Thuma, a nurse from Troy, Ohio, then in her first term of service in Africa.

In the brief biographical sketch in *There is No Difference*, p. 372, it is said of Roy Mann: "Ready to go wherever needed, adaptable, and persevering, he exemplifies the sacrifice bound to the horns of the altar." Written three decades ago, that statement has been verified as Roy and Esther have taken assignments wherever needed—at all the major stations in both Zimbabwe and Zambia, in a pastorate in central Pennsylvania and in voluntary service in New York city. By 1965 the Manns were back in Africa in a unique role as volunteers, where they have been ever since. Esther has pursued her nursing career, working in modern city hospitals and pioneer clinics. Since 1974 the Manns have lived in Bulawayo where they have been self-

supporting missionary associates, busy in activities as varied as their gifts and sharing in the worship and witness of the Zimbabwe church through its period of upheaval during the protracted war.

What about the Manns' children? Born in Africa, they gave their lives to missionary service in the footsteps of their parents. Ruth, with her husband, Marlin Zook, and their three children, are serving with Brethren in Christ Missions in Japan. Robert, with his wife, Carolyn, and their three children served as missionaries in Zimbabwe from 1962 to 1978.

Could it be that the optimism demonstrated by Roy and Esther Mann has grown out of their seeing God work throughout the more than 150 cumulative years of Christian service of their family?

John Graybill stopped by the office the other day to make plans for the deputation work he and **Lucille** will be engaged in during the coming months. Meeting John is always a refreshing experience. For twenty-three years he has been bearing witness to the joy and adequacy of the Lord in two vastly different worlds. While there is much about the technology and sophistication of Japan that is similar to the United States, the life and culture are vastly different. Convinced that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for both people, he has poured his energy and imagination into every opportunity to speak the word of Life.

In Japan the Graybills have modeled the Christian family. The Japanese are a people who recognize unique differences and are skilled in picking up and absorbing those things from others cultures that appeal to them. But the dynamics of genuine Christian love are not available to anyone apart from the presence and transforming power of Jesus Christ. John and Lucille are introducing Jesus Christ to their Japanese friends as the only source of that new life. What they do wholeheartedly in Japan, this couple does with equal effort as they serve among the home churches during furlough periods. Many hundreds of persons across the United States and Canada have been blessed by the ministry of the Graybills. For all those who meet John and Lucille Graybill during their deputation ministry, the chal-

to page 10

Sharing the Blessing

by J. Wilmer Heisey

"I'm Going Home Today"
from page 7

about. Strongly resisting further medication he seemed to fear that his journey would be altered or delayed by receiving it.

He talked of seeing a light brighter than the sun. He must have had some insight regarding children for when I left to prepare for our evening prayer meeting, he asked that our people pray for the 'little ones,' and continued to express concern for the 'little ones.'

Later he asked his son if it was yet 5:00. Learning that it was past 6:00 he seemed disappointed, as though something had gone wrong. It was the next morning at 5:00 that he died—the next calendar day, but within the 24 hour period in which he had first said, "I'm going home today." For him, joy had come in the morning!

Several days earlier, struggling to breathe, he had asked, "Is it wrong to pray that the Lord would take me?" And then he quickly continued, "But my suffering is nothing compared with the suffering of Jesus. I must not be selfish."

He had requested that two songs be used at his funeral service—"My Jesus, I Love Thee" and "How Great Thou Art." They expressed well his sentiments throughout the period of his illness. We had asked the Lord for a miracle. Although not as we expected, the Lord answered with a miracle. Yes, dear widow, death for the child of God who knows where he's going is beautiful!

Rev. Richard Long

MCC NEWS BRIEFS

... MCC workers are safe following a July 17 military coup in Bolivia (the 189th coup in Bolivia's 155 years of independence), but the effect on community development programs is uncertain. . .

... a 5,000 metric ton shipment of wheat to Ethiopia in July is very timely in the face of crop failure. . .

... MCC work in Jordan closes after 15 years, with programs being transferred to local leadership. Phase-out was made possible since government agencies and economic growth are reaching even remote rural areas. . .

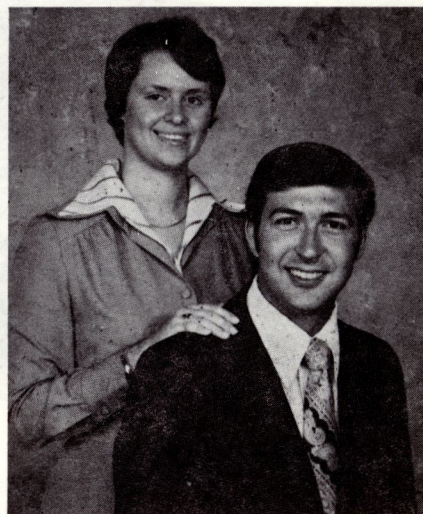
Report from London
from page 8

URGENCY OF THE TASK

Souls are dying. We put forth every effort needed in making Christ known through the Brethren in Christ International Fellowship (U.K.) and pray that it can be of relevant help to the community.

Please join us (Moyos and Books) in prayer concerning this burden. With your help and support we go forward to take up the opportunities and challenges of the 1980s with great confidence. We must not fail to respond to the challenge. This is not the time for missionaries to lose their nerve.

From General Report, June 1980, submitted by Warden Elias Moyo to the Executive Council, Brethren in Christ International Fellowship (U.K.)



ORDINATION

Dale H. Engle was ordained to the ministry on July 6, 1980 in the Cross Roads church, Mt. Joy, PA. Bishop John A. Byers preached the sermon and led in the ordination. Rev. Kenneth Engle, pastor of the Hollowell congregation and Dale's brother, gave the charge to the newly ordained.

As a young boy, Dale accepted the Lord in his home. His faith was nurtured by his family, his home church (Hummelstown) and various youth activities. While touring with a music team from Messiah College, an earlier sense of call to the ministry was refined under the ministry of Roy V. Sider at Camp Kahquah in Canada.

A graduate of Asbury Seminary, he and his wife Mona have a daughter Beth, 2 years old.

Sharing the Blessing

from page 9

lenge is to respond in the spirit of the Apostle Paul as expressed to the Romans (1:11-12), "I want very much to see you in order to share a spiritual blessing with you, and make you strong. What I mean is that both you and I will be helped at the same time: you by my faith and I by your faith." Consider the blessing of meeting John and Lucille Graybill on those terms.

Elias Moyo (see article, page 8) arrived in the United States with his wife Fadzai and family during the northeast's worst heat wave of the summer. This pastoral couple, having already served in two urban centers (Salisbury, Zimbabwe, and London, England), is contacting the Brethren in Christ in Pennsylvania and Ohio before going to California for study at the School of World Mission in Pasadena, California.

Unforgettable was the experience of meeting Elias, Fadzai, Mthabisi, Patience and Faith Moyo at the Kennedy

Airport. All who have "left all" to follow Christ are subject to the possibility of moving. For families, moving has special meaning and every member of the family is a part of its witness. I saw the waitress in a restaurant respond to the Moyo family. In my few hours with them I was helped in my faith by theirs (Romans 1:12). I learned that these parents expressed the important matters of their lives together in the naming of their three lovely children: Mthabisi (He causes us to be happy); Patience (born in Salisbury during the difficult days of conflict in their nation); and Faith, now fifteen months old.

I have written about the faith of the three couples identified in these reflective paragraphs. But meeting them this week, I am encouraged in my own faith. I need such encouragement. Let us hope that all those who share with the Manns, the Graybills and the Moyos during their contacts this summer will contribute some blessing to them as they have refreshed me.

J. Wilmer Heisey is the Executive Secretary of Brethren in Christ Missions, Elizabethtown, PA.

HYMN SING—August 31 Ringgold Meetinghouse

Historic meetinghouse will be open at 4:00, hymn sing on the lawn at 6:30. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Special music includes The Carpenter's Tools from Mechanicsburg. Devotions by Dr. E. Morris Sider.

Directions—drive south from Waynesboro on PA 997 (becomes Maryland Rt. 64). Turn left at village sign into Ringgold. In the village, at the only intersection, turn left. Meetinghouse is about ½ mile from Rt. 64.

For more information call Walter Strite (717) 762-6692.

Church News

Births

Bencsik: Adam Christopher, born June 13, to Greg and Kathy Bencsik, Souderton congregation, Pa.

Bristow: Carrie Leone, born Feb. 20, to George and Sharon Bristow, Stayner congregation, Ont.

Cassel: Miranda Christine, born July 2, to Sam and Sharon Cassel, Fairview congregation, Oh.

Chubb: Faithe Ann, born June 29, to Jack and Anita Chubb, Skyline View congregation, Pa.

Cubitt: Ian MacDonald, born March 27, to Garth and Jane Cubitt, Stayner congregation, Ont.

Dilts: Joanne Ida, born May 30, to Richard and Tracey Dilts, Boyle congregation, Ont.

Frey: Derek Quintin, born July 12, to Quintin and Cheryl Frey, Manor congregation, Pa.

Gee: Beverly Darryl, born June 28, to Bev and Vicki Gee, Paddockwood congregation, Sask.

Harris: Kristina Marie, born July 3, to Lewis and Norene Harris, Western Hills congregation, Oh.

Hertzler: Daryl Leroy, born April 14, to William and Deborah Hertzler, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

Kurtz: Gina Marie, born July 13, to Dave and Brenda Kurtz, Manor congregation, Pa.

Lane: Monica Joy, born June 30, to Gordon and Kathy Lane, Boyle congregation, Ont.

Miller: Christiana, born July 2, to Randy and Susan (Stiffler) Miller, Clear Creek congregation, Pa.

Miller: Kristina Lynn, born June 27, to Melody and Ed Miller, Nappanee congregation, In.

Richardson: Carrie Anne, born June 20, to Michael and Anne (Stoner) Richardson, Green Grove congregation, Pa.

Seibert: Tanisha Lynne, born July 4, to Edward and Barbara Seibert, Shenks congregation, Pa.

Smith: Trevor Lee, born June 28, to Tim and Vickie Smith, Fairview Avenue congregation, Pa.

Weicht: Mindy Lea, born May 7, to Daniel and Cindy (Clark) Weicht, Clear Creek congregation, Pa.

Weicht: Naomi Marie, born April 6, to Sam and Yvonne Weicht, Clear Creek congregation, Pa.

Williams: David Mason Jr., born June 2, to David and Janet Williams, Western Hills congregation, Oh.

Wilson: Tracey Ann, born March 23, to Richard and Gladys Wilson, Mechanicsburg congregation, Pa.

Weddings

Arnold-Ginder: Cheryl Diane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ginder, East Waterford, Pa., and Michael Edward Arnold, Harrisburg, Pa., June 21, in the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church with Dr. Henry Ginder officiating.

Bauman-Leinbach: Connie, daughter of Gene and Shirley Leinbach, and Phil, son of Harold and Elizabeth Bauman, July 12, in the Nappanee Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Jay McDermond officiating.

Bowman-Adams: Phyllis M. Adams and Tony Bowman, son of Ralph and Wilma Bowman, both of Everett, Pa., June 21, in the Clear Creek Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Curtis Bryant officiating.

Callidge-Fischer: Jacalyn Kay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fischer, and Dean Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Callidge, both of Wells Tannery, Pa., June 27, in the home of the bride with Rev. Earl Lehman officiating.

Shaffer-Rupp: Patricia Ann, daughter of Mary P. Rupp, and Jeffrey Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Shaffer, both of Mechanicsburg, Pa., March 22, in the Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. C. R. Burgard officiating.

Snyder-Lehman: Brenda L., daughter of Mrs. Velda Lehman, Carlisle, Pa., and Daniel L., son of Mrs. Romaine Snyder, Mechanicsburg, Pa., April 19, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Holly Springs, with Dr. Carl L. Warrick and Rev. C. R. Burgard officiating.

Strait-Van Dyke: Nancy Ann Van Dyke and Richard David Strait, May 10, in the Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. C. R. Burgard officiating.

Straub-Palmer: Tammy Dawn Palmer, daughter of Mrs. Esther Lenker, and Glenn Edward Straub, June 14, in the Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. C. R. Burgard and Rev. Ralph Palmer officiating.

Obituaries

Goshorn: Jay W. Goshorn, Chambersburg, Pa., born March 30, 1927, died May 23, 1980. He was the son of Mrs. Helen Gifford Goshorn, Chambersburg, Pa., and the late Bruce D. Goshorn. He is survived by his wife, Lena G.; two sons: Donald and Larry; two grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Pauline Wall and a brother, Cecil. He was a member of the Air Hill Brethren in Christ Church where the funeral service was conducted by Rev. Keith D. Ulery and Rev. Wilbur Benner. Interment was in the Air Hill Cemetery.

Heisey: Mrs. Lela F. Heisey, Louisville, Oh., born November 10, 1900, died June 14, 1980. She was the daughter of Marion S. and Amanda (Hoke) Hoover. She was married to Rev. Henry P. Heisey who survives. Also surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Ruth M. Blacketter; three sons: H. Orville, D. Ray, and Marion J.; 16 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters; and four brothers. She was a member of the Uniontown Brethren in Christ Church where her husband served as pastor for six years. She served with her husband 11 years in mission work at Gladwin, Mi., and 41 years in church life in Ohio at Valley Chapel and Uniontown. The service was conducted in the Valley Chapel Church by Bishop David Climenhaga, Rev. Harold Rohrer, and Rev. Mark Weaver. Interment was in Canton, Oh.

Livingston: Stella Pearl Livingston, St. Louis, Mo., born Oct. 15, 1893, died May 24, 1980 in Hopewell, Pa. She was preceded in death by her husband. A daughter, Mrs. Twalla Dodson survives. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Earl J. Lehman in the Masood Funeral Chapel. Interment was in St. Louis.

Steele: John W. Steele Sr., born Aug. 14, 1904, died July 6, 1980, in the Bedford Co. Memorial Hospital. He is survived by two children: John Jr. and Betty Williams. The funeral service was conducted in the Shermans Valley Brethren in Christ Church by Rev. Earl Lehman. Interment was in the Yellow Creek Reformed Cemetery.

27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be crucified.

29 And when they had crucified him, parted his garments, casting lots: that his vesture might be divided among them, and his coat, which was without seam, and whole of one piece.

30 But God raised him from the dead.

31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, is fulfilled in us.

33 God hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee."

34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, "I will give you the sure mercies of David."

35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, "Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers,

by John Yeatts

For many years Bible quizzing has been an exciting part of General Conference. Indeed, it is an important part of General Conference. When it was evident this year that the Wednesday night session of Conference would be

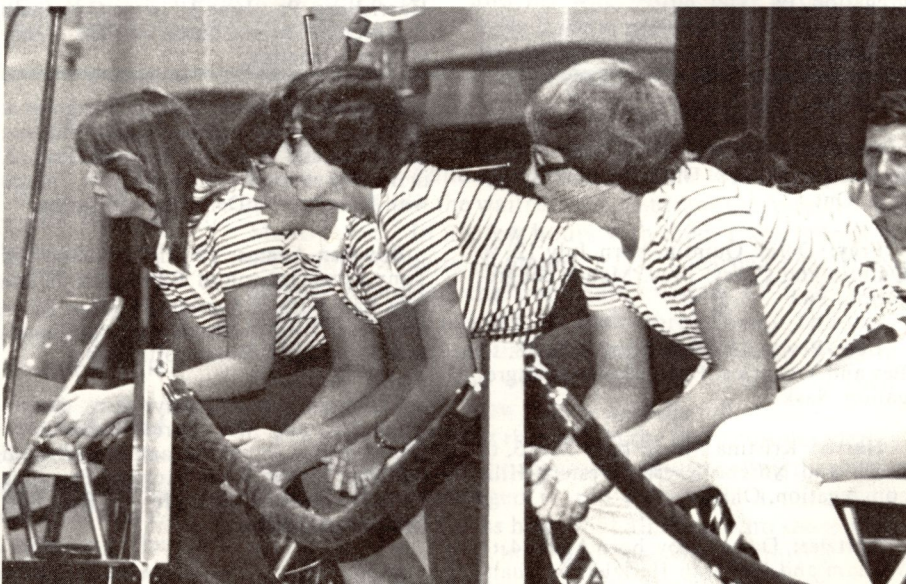
long, a resolution was introduced from the floor to preempt quizzing. The motion was defeated. The Conference wanted to see Bible quizzing, and it was not disappointed.

The final quiz was an exciting one between Hollowell and Pequea. Pequea had earned the right to participate in the finals by defeating Waynesboro/Antrim in a close quiz, 100 to 90. Then, in the finals, the Conference watched as Hollowell beat Pequea 130 to 90. For the first time at General Conference, running totals projected on the

Bible Quiz 1980



The champion Hollowell team displays intense concentration in the final competition.



The Pequea team preparing to jump in the final quiz.



Most valuable quizzier Bryan Sollenberger receives his trophy from quiz director David Brubaker.

overhead screen allowed the Conference audience to keep up with the scoring through the quiz.

Emotions were high. Winners and losers alike were joyful. Outstanding quizzers and quizzing officials were congratulated. It was a grand time.

This year, teams were present from five of the six conferences. The Allegheny Conference by Free Grace, Pequea, and Refton; the Canadian Conference by Sherkston; the Central Conference by Highland; and the Pacific Conference by Upland.

Each quizzier received a certificate of

participation. The leading scorers on each team received a \$50 scholarship from Messiah College. These were Rick Stence from Free Grace, Rick Short from Highland, Bryan Sollenberger from Hollowell, Jeanne Hess from Pequea, Joanne Shank from Refton, Nancy Peterman from Sherkston, Marquerite Johnson from Upland, and Jay Brubaker from Waynesboro/Antrim.

The first place gold trophy went to the undefeated Hollowell team, which has won the finals held at the last two conferences. Members of the team



Pequea quizzier Terry Dagan answers a question as Tim Sherk looks on.



Quiz director David Brubaker confers with his staff, Charles Guerrant, Faith Charles, and Tom Harper regarding an answer given by a quizzier.



The Hollowell team discusses strategy with coach Jane Pittman.

were: Tina Bollinger, Kathy Burger, Sherry Crist, Mark Greenlee, Debbie McIntire, Dwight Myers, Bryan Sollenberger, and Denise Sollenberger. The coach was Bryan Sollenberger and the assistant was Jane Pittman.

The second place silver trophy went to Pequea, a team that has been in the last six General Conference quiz competitions. Members of the team were: Terry Dagan, Tami Harnish, Jeanne Hess, Doug Sherk, and Tim Sherk. The coach was Mark Hess, a fourteen year veteran of Bible quizzing.

Bryan Sollenberger, who has been quizzing for seven years, was chosen by his fellow quizzers as Most Valuable Quizzier. He received a trophy and a leather bound New International Version of the Bible.

David Brubaker, the General Conference Quiz Director, received a standing ovation for the enthusiastic leadership he gave during the past year. Dave, his assistant Janice Knapp, and the staff gave competent and efficient leadership to the quiz program.

On behalf of the Board of Christian Education (the sponsoring agency for Bible quizzing), John Yeatts made several announcements regarding Bible Quiz 1981. The director again will be David Brubaker. The content will be I and II Corinthians in the New International Version. The General Conference finals will be held next July at Memorial Holiness Camp in West Milton, Ohio. We can look forward to another exciting year for Bible quiz.

Conference News

Allegheny

Thirteen persons were received into fellowship by the **Dillsburg** congregation on Sunday, July 20. • The **Mechanicsburg** congregation reports receiving \$795 in offerings during the annual Bible school. Their project was providing scholarships for **Ekupheleni Bible Institute**. • The youth of the **Montgomery** congregation recently hosted the **Searights Church** youth for Christ's Crusaders Day. **Rev. Dale Engle** was the guest speaker.

A hike to King's Gap was taken by the **Ridgeview** youth. Following the hike the young people met at the pastor's home, **Harry Musser**, for a cookout. • The **Shermans Valley** congregation held a riverside service in July. Special music and the message were given by the **Garnet Myers** family.



Alta Loma Church Dedicated



The Alta Loma Brethren in Christ Church recently dedicated a new multi-purpose building. The first phase of the congregation's master plan, the facility provides space for worship services and Christian education as well as housing the Little People Pre-School. A unique feature (for Brethren in Christ churches) is the drive-in area, visible in the picture above.

Bishop R. Donald Shafer preached the dedicatory sermon. Special music was provided by the Upland Church choir, directed by Al Clift, and Douglas Martin, soloist.

Richard Dahl, Lester Martin and Pastor J. Ralph Wenger served as the building executive. Designed by Bar-

makian, Wolff and Associates, the building was constructed under the supervision of Dr. A. V. Howland, retired minister and college president from Iola, KS.

Much of the labor was donated by the congregation, with sub-contractors also contributing toward the project. A substantial part of the financing came through a congregational fund drive and from the Brotherhood Loan Fund.

Pastor Wenger was assigned to a church planting ministry in southern California in 1976, beginning to work in the Alta Loma community. The congregation's membership at the end of 1979 was 64.

Order River Brethren and the Dunkard Brethren churches were invited. • A Galilean Service was held by the **Zion** congregation on Sunday, July 27. The youth also shared camp reports at this time.

Pacific

In an outreach program a goal of the **Chino** congregation is to contact 3,000 families during a three-month period. The program began July 6 and will run through October 5. • The **Irvine** congregation reports that 17 adults and eight children began a new weekly Bible study on Wednesday, July 9.

Seven persons were received by the **Ontario Church** recently. An average of 62 children attended the five-day Bible school held in June. • The **Bob Kech** family were welcomed to the **Upland** congregation on June 1, when Bob began his duties as Minister of Christian Education. The congregation reports receiving 60 persons into fellowship during the first half of the year.

Slide Set On Military Service Available Through MCC

A new 20-minute slide set available from Mennonite Central Committee is excellent for stimulating discussion about Christian approaches to registration and the draft, according to Ron Flickinger of MCC U.S. Peace Section.

"Every Heart Beats True" describes the peace witness of the early Christians, the teachings of Jesus, the just war approach and the nature of military service today. The slide set then challenges Christians to accept conscientious objection of war as the proper response.

"Every Heart Beats True" is available on a free-loan basis. Write to Audio-Visuals Library, MCC, 21 South 12th St., Akron, Pa., 17501.

Evangelical Visitor

Atlantic

Sunday evening, June 29, was designated as Visitation Night by the **Free Grace** congregation. It was the church's goal to have everyone visit or be visited. • The **Steve Nolt** family shared with the **Lancaster** congregation about the year they spent in Africa with the African Inland Missions.

A farewell service was held by the **Palmyra** congregation on Sunday evening, July 13, to express appreciation for their pastoral family, the **Robert Lehman**s. A food shower was held for the new pastoral family, the **Ethan Gramms**, on Sunday evening, July 27. Rev. Gramm was installed in the morning service. • The **Speedwell Heights** congregation recently received seven persons into fellowship. Six of these persons were members of a family.

Canada

On Sunday evening, July 6, the **Bridlewood** congregation and their pastor, **Leonard Chester**, took part in a community open-air service. The service was held in the Bridlewood Mall. • A "Christmas in July" service was held on July 20 by the Massey Place congregation.

Rev. and Mrs. John Zuck were installed as the pastoral couple of the **Rosebank** congregation on Sunday morning, July 6, by **Bishop Harvey Sider**. A grocery shower was held for the Zucks following the evening service.

Central

The **Morrison** congregation reports holding a children's retreat with a special speaker for children. The youth also toured the Sears Tower in Chicago. • Special guests of the **Western Hills** congregation recently were the Libbie Gospel Band. They are a family of eight who were returning to California following a year's tour.

Midwest

The **Dallas Center** congregation reports sponsoring a Pig Roast on July 5, to which the Old

MCC East Coast Holds First Full Board Meeting

Representatives of district church conferences and regional inter-Mennonite programs gathered July 15 for the first full meeting of the newly-organized Mennonite Central Committee East Coast Board.

The board elected a chairman and four other members to the executive committee. It also discussed plans for informative local MCC rallies and heard reports from MCC staff persons on personnel recruitment, draft registration and MCC U.S.'s Cuban and Haitian refugee program in Miami, Fla.

Wilmer Heisey of Mt. Joy, Pa., was appointed as chairman for a one-year term. Heisey is executive secretary of the Brethren in Christ mission board and former chairman of MCC U.S. Ministries. He is one of the individuals who spearheaded organization of the East Coast board.

Heisey expressed his belief, however, that in the long run the board's leadership should come from the "grass roots" of the church, not from full-time officials of church organizations.

Others elected to the executive committee are Bob Schreiner of Gettysburg, Pa., who represents the Atlantic Coast Conference; Diane Brown of Norristown, Pa., who represents MCC Thrift Shop interests; Ray Pacheco of Brooklyn, N.Y., member-at-large; and Landis Hershey of Lancaster, Pa., regional representative of Mennonite Disaster Service.

The board also discussed plans for MCC rallies, which will provide information on current MCC activities through displays and speakers and will give former MCC workers opportunity to share about their experiences. It is making definite plans for a rally in Belleville, Pa., in late October or early November and in Chambersburg, Pa., February 28, 1981. It is also considering rallies in Virginia, Florida and the Lancaster, Pa., area in the spring of 1981.

Norma Johnson of the MCC personnel staff spoke to the board concerning visits in local churches to discuss service opportunities. She emphasized that no congregation should consider itself too small to invite MCC staff to visit.

The full board agreed to meet twice a year. Its next meeting will be November 11.

August 25, 1980

Editorial

Just puttering around...

Having recently moved 600 miles into a new home, my basement workshop is in shambles. Tools are in various boxes, jars of nails and screws are in six different places, lights have not been hung, and pieces of equipment and lumber are scattered over the floor and in the garage. Slowly, as editorial responsibilities permit, I am bringing order out of chaos.

It's about time. In this older house we've purchased there are a number of repairs needing urgent attention: frayed light wires, leaking pipes, no lights in the garage or back porch, windows that don't open easily, three screens missing . . . and the list goes on.

I've tried to begin some repair projects amid the clutter in my workshop and it just doesn't work—I spend more time hunting for tools and supplies than I spend on the actual repair project. So I have set some priorities: finish the workbench and storage shelves, then sort out tools and supplies, and finally tackle the projects around the house.

Linda has been very patient through this process, which is now in its sixth week. She knows, however (and I must concede the point) that at times I have a tendency to putter around in the workshop—putting finishing touches on the cabinets or rearranging the storage shelves or tools on the pegboard—and in so doing, neglecting the actual construction or repair projects at hand. Then she gently reminds me that the reason for having the tools is not so I can rearrange them, but so that I can productively use them.

In terms of our Christian faith, how often do we find ourselves puttering around in our workshops? Certainly we need to spend energy (and money) in organizing and sharpening our tools and building our work tables. But the Master Carpenter calls us to pick up our tool boxes full of sharpened tools and join with him in building the Body of Christ. We don't have time to waste by simply rearranging tools on the pegboard. There is work to be done.

As followers of Christ, each of us is given spiritual gifts which God intends we use in ministry. This is dramatically illustrated in the five tributes appearing in this *Visitor* (pages 4-7). The spectrum is striking—college president and mentally handicapped, from age 15 to 81. But in ways unique and appropriate to their gifts and abilities, each person freely shared his or her love and faith. They were not content to simply "putter around in a basement workshop."

Mrs. Matsura quietly but effectively influenced her Japanese home and family and in her death, a Buddhist monk. *Mr. Sheasley*, not well known across the church but faithful in his local congregation, challenged doctors and nurses in his illness by his faith. *Joy Lehman* and *Sammy Smith* touched a number of persons in a special ministry of giving and receiving love. *C. N. Hostetter's* ministry influenced the lives of countless persons around the world as he moved with clarity of purpose, yet in a humble, gentle manner.

How sad it is to see God's children never entering the Master Carpenter's workshop, there to learn the secrets of using tools and keeping them in good repair. But how tragic, having learned from him, to stay hidden away in the basement, rearranging the tools, rather than working with him in the tasks at hand.

Lord, help me to move beyond simply puttering around.

G

RICHARD E THUMA 1-87/92
P. 1 BOX 87
MARIETTA PA 17547

Lessons

by Glenace Frey

T'aałá'i, naaki, táá' álchíní, the kids sang, as I pounded on the yellowed ivories beating music out of the old upright piano in my school room. Behind me, with her arms wrapped around my neck, clung Cornelia Joe, while at my left sat Elvira Benny dutifully holding the book open with Wilbert's help at my right, also keeping the book open. He had happily responded to my instructions of *shiká anilyeed* (you help me) by not only holding the pages secure, but also by placing his foot on my foot and would soon be successful in reaching his end of preventing my operation of the pedal. I gave him a wink as I caught him sneaking a mischievous glance in my direction.

How good to love and be loved by these kids, I realized, as a peculiar warmth grabbed my heart and squeezed it tight. My fingers kept playing, but my mind took me back to that first week of school when, just out of college and new to Navajoland, I had been struck by the full impact of the challenge that lay ahead—that of building a relationship of trust and a stimulating, nonthreatening learning environment for the fourteen chil-

dren entrusted to me for one short school year. That challenge was amplified daily by the practical frustrations of juggling lesson plans for two grade levels, stopping playground scuffles, keeping the perpetually sandy floor respectable and reminding the kids to blow their noses and wash their hands. Now, halfway through the year, I often rejoiced to see how the Lord had taught me to handle those problems.

Yes, He had been faithful, but not before teaching me a difficult but precious lesson. I had realized that lesson one day as I walked the length of the retired air strip that parallels the mission campus to direct my prayers into the vaulted dome of blue sky. Into that heavenly domain were cast my pleas for love, wisdom and strength for the task ahead. As I began to run and revel in the wild beauty of this enchanted land, my thoughts took me back to a place where I had not been so happy. I recalled a place and a time when my days had been dark as I faced anxiously the decisive moves I needed to make upon leaving the college environment. I had struggled to find a direction and purpose to which to apply myself. Though I knew better, I failed to trust the Lord for the good things He wanted to give me.

"How foolish." I laughed, surprised at my voice, as I stopped to take in the beauty around me. "Thank you, God, for pleasant surprises like Navajoland and fourteen little children and purple mesas and pungent sage and a purpose for living and yes, even joy! And most of all, for teaching me that I can trust you . . . I CAN trust you!



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